

**Open Lands Committee  
Public Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2005  
Council Chambers, Dover City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Tom Fargo, Joyce El Kouarti, Dona Layton, Ann Reid, Anne Kotlus, Sherri Towle, John Scruton, Cheryl Niles, Geoffrey Njue, Dave Price, Dave Eisler, Steve Bird, Marcia Colbath

Tom Fargo moved to accept July, 2005 minutes with amendments, seconded by Anne Kotlus. Passed U/A.

- 1) Treasurer's Report: Steve Byrd reported that there had been no change in the Conservation Fund from June 20, 2005.
- 2) Reports by Task Groups:

**EASEMENT MONITORING**

Dave Price has monitored the Steve Vermett parcel, and will consult with Tom Fargo regarding further parcels to be monitored. Mr. Price noted that Steve Vermett has proposed switching ("flipping") the location of the development parcel within the easement area, which proposal has been tabled. Mr. Vermett would also like to enlarge the conservation easement area.

Dona Layton observed that a *long-term maintenance plan* is needed for parcels subject to conservations easements, parcels owned for conservation purposes and trails. Marcia Colbath suggested that grants may be sought for maintenance equipment for contracted work. Tom Fargo observed that the problems turned on management of the city-owned parcels, also noting the problem of labor. He stated that convict or community service labor might be used. Tom moved that the Committee schedule a special workshop session to address maintenance of easement/trail areas and a long-term maintenance plan at a date to be determined. Ann Reid seconded the motion. Motion passed U/A.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

Dave Eisler will contact Cathy Beaudion regarding appropriate language for the tour guides at the "Garrison Hill: The Panorama Revealed" event scheduled for September. He will attempt to circulate it by email for September meeting.

Dona Layton stated that the Committee will participate in Apple Harvest Day in October, with a table as it has in the past, next to the Great Bay Watch and Cocheco Valley Humane Society.

Ann Reid: spoke about the Gundalow visit to Dover beginning August 18. She also advised committee of a presentation on August 11 from 6PM to 8PM regarding "Water Sampling on the Cocheco."

Tom Fargo suggested contacting Capt. Quigly regarding a discount for outreach/education tour of the Cocheco River or as a raffle item.

Discussion regarding the book "Conserving Your Land" as a promotional item for land owners considering conservation easements. Steve Bird has a number of copies of

these in his office that are intended for landowners we are working with. Cheryl Niles noted that this book is given to land owners as part of the information packet at the first meeting. A question was raised whether a copy of the book was in the Library's collection and whether it would be on the OLC's Apple Harvest Day table. The consensus was that it should be made available then.

## **GRANT WRITING**

No news.

## **TRAILS**

An informational meeting on the Community Trail was held July 18. The meeting was led by Bruce Woodruff of the Planning Department. A number of abutters to the Fisher-Silver-Cushing portions were present to express their concerns. Dona made a statement on behalf of the OLC in support of the trail, noting that it provides access to open space from downtown.

The next step will be to secure the Right of Way for the parcel between Fisher and Silver Streets. The Open Lands Committee agreed to support an appraisal and purchase of the parcel. The issue of the trail's crossing of Silver Street was also discussed, with options set out by Tom.

Ann Reid moved to commit funds for the purchase price of the Kaneliery parcel between Fisher and Silver Streets, seconded by Cheryl Niles. Passed U/A.

A ceremony was held on July 26 to celebrate the The Cocheco River Conservation Area. Dona was present to make a statement on behalf of the Open Lands Committee. Tom Fargo noted that an additional sign will be placed on the Whittier Road side of the parcel.

## **LAND ACTION**

No news. Discussion of the language of proposed letter to Attorney General seeking an opinion about A new draft will be presented at the September meeting by Dave Eisler.

## **LTA STANDARDS AND PRACTICES**

Tom Fargo observed that municipalities are distinct from land trusts for most purposes. Joyce El Kouarti further observed that most of the standards applicable to the City's situation had to do with monitoring. Referred to Easement Monitoring Team for report, on motion of Dona Layton, seconded by Steve Bird, passed U/A.

- 3) Motion to move into non-public session by Joyce El Kouarti, seconded by Tom Fargo, passed U/A.
- 4) Motion to approve July, 2005 Non-public minutes by Tom Fargo, seconded by Anne Koltus, passed U/A.
- 5) Motion to adjourn by Tom Fargo, seconded by Joyce El Kourarti, passed U/A. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.